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Devicolam taluk with the powers of a Munsiff. If the Government did not consider the permanent shifting of the head quarters practicable, he proposed, as an alternative, that the Devicolam Superintendent might be ordered to hold his office at Peermade for six months in the year or that the Assistant Superintendent might be empowered to attend to the ordinary revenue functions of the Peishkar, in accepting petitions issuing records &c., leaving for the decision of the Superintendent only very important questions. He, however, laid stress on the fact that the alternative proposals would not afford any appreciable relief, as the records of the taluk would be at Devicolam and could not possibly be taken to Peermade in camp and hence the parties would have to go to Devicolam all the same. The best arrangement would therefore be to transfer the head-quarters to Peermade.

On the Dewan asking Mr. Vernede what he had to say about the proposal to shift his head-quarters for 6 months in the year to Peermade, he said that personally he had no objection.

Dewan's reply.—Mr. Vernede will be asked to report officially on the whole question.

14. The necessity for registering Sirkar waste lands in the names of the Pulayas for their occupation.

Mr. Aiyan Kali (Member, Nominated) first expressed on behalf of his community, their feelings of gratitude to the Government for nominating him as a Member and also for the manifold blessings his community had recently shared with the other communities of the State in the matter of social liberties, education &c., and he prayed for the continuance of the same policy in the future. He then thanked the Government for the consideration shown to the representation on the subject made by him at the last session of the Assembly, by granting 500 acres of waste lands in the Vilappu *pakuthi* in the Neyyattinkara taluk as house-sites for the Pulayas, free of acreage value.

In the *pakuthies* of Pallipuram and Kazhakuttam, he said that over a thousand Pulayas were now houseless. Some of them had submitted applications to the Revenue Department for the registry, in their names, of the available waste lands. He prayed that orders might be kindly issued to the authorities concerned to expedite the registration proceedings and assign the lands to them and thereby redress the grievances of the community in that part of the State.

He also made a general request that the Government might be pleased to make provision for allowing similar lands to the community in the different parts of the State for their residence.

In conclusion the Member regretted that the interests of the Pulaya community in the Kottayam Division were not represented in the Assembly and he requested that one from the community in that division might also be nominated as Member from next year.

Mr. C. Charadan Solomon (Member, Nominated) thanked the Government for nominating him to represent the Pulayas of the Quilon Division and said that hardly five

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years had elapsed since the Pulayas were seriously reckoned as the subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja, though they were admittedly in the country from very early times. Even now they were without lands of their own for dwelling purposes, and were without the means to acquire lands. There were no hills in the western taluks of the Quilon Division, and all that could be said as having no present owner were the backwaters, the remaining lands having been mostly registered. He therefore requested that permission might be given to them to reclaim backwaters for habitation, as that was not likely to affect anybody else adversely and also that, should there be any lands, hills, *cherikals*, *pudurals* or *porambokes* in the interior of the taluks, available for registry, the same might be caused to be registered in the names of the Pulayas.

He further submitted that there were several Pulaya converts to Christianity in his division and he prayed that the same privileges as were accorded to the other Pulayas might be extended to them also.

Dewan's reply.—By G. O. No. 13029, dated the 4th December 1912, an extent of 500 acres of Sirkar land in the Vilappil *pakuthi*, Neyyattinkara taluk, has been reserved for the Pulayas of the Sadhu Jana Paripalana Sangham, and the Trivandrum Peishkar has been asked to divide the area into one acre blocks and register the same in the names of such of the Pulayas of the Samajam as agree to settle down in the lands. The *tharavila* on the lands has been remitted as a special case. The question of allowing similar concessions in the other parts of the State will be considered after the whole of these 500 acres is taken up by the Pulayas. No special concession can be granted to the Pulayas to reclaim backwaters, which come under *poramboke*.

15. The desirability of reconsidering G. O. No. 2933 L. R., dated the 18th March 1911, regarding irrigation works in the Southern Division.

Mr. P. Krishna Pillai (Member, Eraniel taluk) said that the area watered by the 1,623 irrigation tanks of the taluk was 9,103 acres and that, of those, only two tanks were now treated as "Major Irrigation works", irrigating an area of 802 acres. Under G. O. No. 2933/L. R., dated the 18th March 1911, the works to be done to the remaining 1,621 tanks irrigating an area of 8,301 acres fell under "Petty" or "Minor" works, and the ryots had either to do the whole works themselves in the case of the former, or pay half the cost of the works or such irrigation cess as might be fixed by the Government in the case of the latter. It was needless to say that the burden would sit very heavily on the ryots. Further, the ryots of the taluk had not in the past done any works at their cost The explanation for that state of affairs in the taluk was that there were no major works in the taluk and therefore the Government came to do such small works, petty or minor, at their own expense. Under the proviso to Section 7 of Regulation III of 1072, the provisions of the law should not be made applicable to the localities where, according to custom, the works were carried out or maintained by the Government at their entire cost, so that in whatever way the question be viewed, the charge should not fall on the ryots of the taluk. To add to the trouble of the ryots, several of the tank-beds, which served as good irrigation sources, were being rapidly auctioned away. The situation therefore was that most of the tank-beds were fast disappearing ; no irrigation works would be done by the

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